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casts of Sivalik Fossils lately presented by the Hon. E. I. Company to the Academy, which had been mutilated in the transportation, would be replaced by others, which were already in course of preparation.

A communication was read from the Secretary of the American Philosophical Society, dated October 21, 1848, acknowledging the receipt of No. 2, New Series, of the Journal of the Academy.

November 28th, 1848.

MR. VAUX in the Chair.

The Committee appointed to superintend the printing of the New List of Members and Correspondents, reported that they had performed that duty, and that copies were ready for distribution. The List comprises the names of 70 life members, 80 contributing do., 33 non-contributing do., and 62 deceased do., total 245; and of Correspondents, foreign 257, (42 deceased) and domestic 263, (45 deceased) total 520. Total Members and Correspondents to Oct. 1, 1848—765.

The Committee to whom was referred Professor Johnson's letter in reference to a memorial to Congress recommending the addition of one or more Naturalists to the Astronomical expedition now being fitted out for Chili, by order of the Government, *Reported*, that they consider this addition as of great importance, and would recommend the appointment of a Committee, with authority to take such steps in the matter as may be necessary to ensure this result. Report adopted, and on motion, the whole subject was referred to the same Committee, viz: Dr. Morton, Dr. Bridges, and Mr. Vaux.

December 5th, 1848.

MR. PHILLIPS in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, transmitting the first volume of their "Contributions to Knowledge," with a Circular describing the plan of organization of the Institution, and a printed list of queries addressed to the Librarian of the Academy in relation to the Library.

A letter was also read from the Imperial Society of Naturalists of Moscow, dated August 17, 1848, accompanying several numbers of the Bulletin of that Society.

Dr. Leidy offered the following observations on the development of bone, the structure of articular cartilage, and on the relation of the areolar tissue with muscle and tendon.

1. *On the development of the Purkinjean corpuscle in bone.*—Schwann, in his "Mikroskopische Untersuchungen," considers that the Purkinjean corpuscle of bone is derived from the pre-existing cartilage cell, and that the canaliculi are prolongations, or protrusions of the cell wall. Many later authors, among whom are Gerber, and Todd and Bowman, express the opinion that it originates in the nucleus of the temporary cartilage cell, and Tomes entertains the idea, that after the formation of the osseous tubes, in the process of ossification, the latter are